



CLEAN ENERGY MINISTERIAL

FACT SHEET: BIOENERGY WORKING GROUP

At the Clean Energy Ministerial in Washington, D.C. on July 19th and 20th, ministers launched a **Bioenergy Working Group**, which will advance the deployment of bioenergy technologies by implementing recommendations of the Technology Action Plan on Bioenergy Technologies that was released by the Major Economies Forum Global Partnership in December 2009. The Working Group will work in close cooperation with the Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP), which is co-chaired by Brazil and Italy.

Initial key activities of the Working Group include:

1. **Global Bioenergy Atlas:** The Working Group will combine and build upon existing databases of sustainably-developed bioenergy potential around the globe and make it available in an open web-portal, from which user-tailored data can be derived. The scope of the effort will initially focus on the potential for biofuels-producing crops and for the use of waste-derived biomass for electricity generation.
2. **Best-Practice Sustainable Opportunities for Poor Communities:** The Working Group will identify initiatives that can promote new uses of biomass in sustainable and efficient ways in poor communities. Participating countries will share best-practices and explore the potential for local production with low-cost technologies.
3. **Bioenergy R&D Centers of Excellence:** The Working Group will identify regional centers of excellence in bioenergy research and development (R&D) across the entire value chain for biomass production and use for electricity generation, as well as for flex-fuel and hybrid-fuel transportation technologies. The focus will be on second-generation biofuels, diffusion of low-cost technologies and best practices for conventional biofuels production in developing countries, and electricity generation technologies using biomass. In addition, the Working Group will promote collaboration between academic institutions and the bioenergy industry through joint pilot projects.

The lead countries plan to host a workshop by the end of the year for all participating countries to work on these three initial fields of action.

Participants as of July 20, 2010

The Working Group will be led by Brazil, which has shown a long-term commitment to the development of bioenergy, and also by Italy and Sweden. Other governments are also welcome. In order to attain further progress on the three initial actions and other related bioenergy activities, the initiative will need the committed support of as many partner countries as possible.